AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-7. (canceled)

8. **(currently amended)** A driving device for transporting a lens of an optical instrument, said device comprising:

a guide element connected perpendicularly with the lens for guiding reciprocating movement of the lens;

a driving element arranged coplanar with the lens and fixed, by a first end, to a periphery of the lens for providing the lens with a transport force which is larger than an interactive force between the lens and the guide element, wherein the driving element comprises a piezoelectric element powered by a supply voltage; and

~~The driving device as set forth in claim 7, further comprising~~ a weight of a predetermined mass attached to a second end of the piezoelectric element opposite to the first end.

9. (original) The driving device as set forth in claim 8, wherein the piezoelectric element comprises a plurality of element sections which are arranged in the periphery of the lens, spaced at an equal interval.

10. **(currently amended)** The driving device as set forth in claim 8, wherein the piezoelectric element is shaped as a ring surrounding [[an]] the entire periphery of the lens.

11. **(canceled)**

12. **(currently amended)** A driving device for transporting a lens of an optical instrument, said device comprising:

a guide element connected perpendicularly with the lens for guiding reciprocating movement of the lens; and

a driving element arranged coplanar with the lens and fixed, by a first end, to a periphery of the lens for providing the lens with a transport force which is larger than an interactive force between the lens and the guide element;

~~The driving device as set forth in claim 6,~~ wherein the guide element [[means]] is extended through the lens in a position adjacent to the periphery of the lens.

13. **(currently amended)** The driving device as set forth in claim 12, wherein the guide element [[means]] comprises at least one bar of a polygonal cross section.

14. **(currently amended)** The driving device as set forth in claim 12, wherein the guide element [[means]] comprises at least two bars of a circular cross section.

15. **(currently amended)** A driving device for transporting a lens of an optical instrument, said device comprising:

a guide element connected perpendicularly with the lens for guiding reciprocating movement of the lens;

a driving element arranged coplanar with the lens and fixed, by a first end, to a periphery of the lens for providing the lens with a transport force which is larger than an interactive force between the lens and the guide element; and

~~The driving device as set forth in claim 6, further comprising~~ an elastic element [[means]] for enabling elastic contact between the lens and the guide element [[means]] to provide the lens

and the guide element [[means]] with an interactive force proportional to an elastic force.

16. **(currently amended)** A driving device for transporting a lens of an optical instrument, said device comprising:

a guide element connected perpendicularly with the lens for guiding reciprocating movement of the lens; and

a driving element arranged coplanar with the lens and fixed, by a first end, to a periphery of the lens for providing the lens with a transport force which is larger than an interactive force between the lens and the guide element;

wherein

the driving element comprises a piezoelectric element powered by a supply voltage; and

~~The driving device as set forth in claim 7, wherein~~ absolute values of the supply voltage per time fed to the piezoelectric element are different from each other before and after a peak.

17-18. (canceled)

19. **(currently amended)** A driving device for transporting a lens in an optical instrument, said device comprising:

a guide element connected perpendicularly with the lens for guiding reciprocating movement of the lens;

a driving element having a first end fixed perpendicularly to a face of the lens to provide the lens with a transport force which is larger than an interactive force between the lens and the guide element, wherein the driving element comprises a piezoelectric element powered by a supply voltage; and

~~The driving device as set forth in claim 18, further comprising~~ a weight of a predetermined mass attached to a second end of the piezoelectric element opposite to the first end.

20. (original) The driving device as set forth in claim 19, wherein the piezoelectric element comprises a plurality of element sections arranged in the face of the lens adjacent to a periphery of the lens, spaced at an equal interval.

21. **(currently amended)** The driving device as set forth in claim 19, wherein the piezoelectric element is shaped as a ring arranged in the face of the lens adjacent to [[the]] a periphery thereof.

22. (canceled)

23. **(currently amended)** A driving device for transporting a lens in an optical instrument, said device comprising:

a guide element connected perpendicularly with the lens for guiding reciprocating movement of the lens;

a driving element having a first end fixed perpendicularly to a face of the lens to provide the lens with a transport force which is larger than an interactive force between the lens and the guide element; and

~~The driving device as set forth in claim 17, further comprising~~ an elastic element [[means]] for enabling elastic contact between the lens and the guide element [[means]] to provide the lens and the guide element [[means]] with an interactive force proportional to an elastic force.

24. **(currently amended)** A driving device for transporting a lens in an optical instrument, said device comprising:

a guide element connected perpendicularly with the lens for guiding reciprocating movement of the lens; and

a driving element having a first end fixed perpendicularly to a face of the lens to provide the lens with a transport force which is larger than an interactive force between the lens and the guide

element;

~~The driving device as set forth in claim 17,~~ wherein the guide element [[means]] is extended through the lens in a position adjacent to [[the]] a periphery of the lens.

25. **(currently amended)** The driving device as set forth in claim 24, wherein the guide element [[means]] comprises at least one bar of a polygonal cross section.

26. **(currently amended)** The driving device as set forth in claim 24, wherein the guide element [[means]] comprises at least two bars of a circular cross section.

27. **(canceled)**

28. **(currently amended)** A driving device for transporting a lens in an optical instrument, said device comprising:

a guide element connected perpendicularly with the lens for guiding reciprocating movement of the lens; and

a driving element having a first end fixed perpendicularly to a face of the lens to provide the lens with a transport force which is larger than an interactive force between the lens and the guide element;

wherein

the guide element comprises an external frame contacting with a periphery of the lens to guide reciprocating movement of the lens; and

~~The driving device as set forth in claim 27, wherein~~ the lens has at least one segment projected radially from the periphery of the lens, and ~~wherein~~ the external frame has a recess formed along a route of the lens for receiving the projected segment.

29. **(currently amended)** The driving device as set forth in claim 28, wherein [[the]] a

piezoelectric element is fixed with a portion of the projected segment.

30. **(currently amended)** A driving device for transporting a lens in an optical instrument, said device comprising:

a guide element connected perpendicularly with the lens for guiding reciprocating movement of the lens; and

a driving element having a first end fixed perpendicularly to a face of the lens to provide the lens with a transport force which is larger than an interactive force between the lens and the guide element;

wherein

the driving element comprises a piezoelectric element powered by a supply voltage; and

~~The driving device as set forth in claim 18, wherein~~ absolute values of the supply voltage per time fed to the piezoelectric element are different from each other before and after a peak.

31. **(currently amended)** A method of transporting a lens ~~with the~~ using a driving device comprising a guide element connected perpendicularly with the lens for guiding reciprocating movement of the lens, and a driving element arranged coplanar with the lens and fixed, by a first end, to a periphery of the lens for providing the lens with a transport force which is larger than an interactive force between the lens and the guide element ~~according to claim 6~~, the method comprising the ~~following~~ steps of:

(a) moving [[the]] a second end of the driving element [[means]] along a transport direction of the lens at a first velocity; and

(b) restoring the driving element [[means]] to [[its]] an original configuration thereof at a second velocity faster than the first velocity ~~of the second end of the driving means in the step (a)~~ to thereby move the lens which is fixed with the first end of the driving element [[means]].

32. **(currently amended)** The method ~~of transporting a lens~~ as set forth in claim 31,

wherein the driving element [[means]] comprises a piezoelectric element powered by a supply voltage, and wherein the supply voltage per time fed to the piezoelectric element in the step (a) has an absolute value smaller than that of the supply voltage in the step (b).

33. **(currently amended)** A method of transporting a lens ~~with the~~ using a driving device comprising a guide element connected perpendicularly with the lens for guiding reciprocating movement of the lens, and a driving element arranged coplanar with the lens and fixed, by a first end, to a periphery of the lens for providing the lens with a transport force which is larger than an interactive force between the lens and the guide element ~~according to claim 6~~, the method comprising the ~~following~~ steps of:

(a) moving [[the]] a second end of the driving element [[means]] along a transport direction of the lens at a first velocity; and

(b) operating the driving element [[means]] at a second velocity faster than the first velocity ~~of the second end of the driving means in the step (a)~~ to move the lens, which is fixed to the first end of the driving element [[means]], along the transport direction of the lens beyond a position of the lens that will be achieved by restoration of the driving element [[means]] to [[its]] an original ~~position~~ configuration thereof; and

(c) restoring the second end of the driving element [[means]] to [[its]] said original configuration.

34. **(currently amended)** The method ~~of transporting a lens~~ as set forth in claim 33, wherein the driving element [[means]] comprises a piezoelectric element powered by a supply voltage, and wherein the supply voltage per time fed to the piezoelectric element in the step (a) has an absolute value smaller than that of the supply voltage in the step (b).

35. (original) A driving device for transporting a lens of an optical instrument, comprising:

guide means connected perpendicularly with the lens for guiding reciprocating movement of the lens;

elastic means for enabling elastic contact between the lens and the guide means to provide the lens and the guide means with an interactive force proportional to an elastic force;

piezoelectric driving means being coplanar with the lens, having a first end fixed to a periphery of the lens, and powered by a supply voltage to provide the lens with a transport force which is larger than an interactive force between the lens and the guide means;

a weight of a predetermined mass attached to a second end of the piezoelectric driving means opposite to the first end.

36. (original) The driving device as set forth in claim 35, wherein the piezoelectric driving means comprises a plurality of sections which are arranged in the periphery of the lens, spaced at an equal interval.

37. (original) The driving device as set forth in claim 35, wherein the piezoelectric driving means is shaped as a ring surrounding an entire periphery of the lens.

38. (original) The driving device as set forth in claim 35, further comprising a lens frame for surrounding the periphery of the lens, wherein the first end of the piezoelectric driving means is fixed to the lens frame.

39. (original) The driving device as set forth in claim 35, wherein the guide means is extended through the lens in a position adjacent to the periphery of the lens.

40. (original) The driving device as set forth in claim 39, wherein the guide means comprises at least one bar of a polygonal cross section.

41. (original) The driving device as set forth in claim 39, wherein the guide means comprises at least two bars of a circular cross section.

42. (original) The driving device as set forth in claim 35, wherein absolute values of the supply voltage per time fed to the piezoelectric element are different from each other before and after a peak.

43. (original) A driving device for transporting a lens of an optical instrument, comprising:

guide means extended through the lens in a position adjacent to the periphery of the lens for guiding reciprocating movement of the lens;

elastic means for enabling elastic contact between the lens and the guide means to provide the lens and the guide means with an interactive force proportional to an elastic force;

piezoelectric driving means having a first end fixed perpendicularly to a face of the lens, and powered by a supply voltage to provide the lens with a transport force which is larger than an interactive force between the lens and the guide means; and

a weight of a predetermined mass attached to a second end of the piezoelectric driving means opposite to the first end.

44. (original) The driving device as set forth in claim 43, wherein the piezoelectric element comprises a plurality of element sections arranged in the face of the lens adjacent to a periphery of the lens, spaced at an equal interval.

45. (original) The driving device as set forth in claim 43, wherein the piezoelectric element is shaped as a ring arranged in the face of the lens adjacent to the periphery thereof.

46. (original) The driving device as set forth in claim 43, further comprising a lens

frame for surrounding the periphery of the lens, wherein the first end of the piezoelectric element is fixed to the lens frame.

47. (original) The driving device as set forth in claim 43, wherein the guide means comprises at least one bar of a polygonal cross section.

48. (original) The driving device as set forth in claim 43, wherein the guide means comprises at least two bars of a circular cross section.

49. (original) The driving device as set forth in claim 43, wherein absolute values of the supply voltage per time fed to the piezoelectric element are different from each other before and after a peak.

50. (original) A driving device for transporting a lens of an optical instrument, comprising:

an external frame being in contact with a peripheral surface of the lens for guiding reciprocating movement of the lens;

elastic means for enabling elastic contact between the lens and the external frame to provide the lens and the external frame with an interactive force proportional to an elastic force;

piezoelectric driving means having a first end fixed perpendicularly to a face of the lens, and powered by a supply voltage to provide the lens with a transport force which is larger than an interactive force between the lens and the guide means; and

a weight of a predetermined mass attached to a second end of the piezoelectric driving means opposite to the first end.

51. (original) The driving device as set forth in claim 50, wherein the piezoelectric element comprises a plurality of element sections arranged in the face of the lens adjacent to a

periphery of the lens, spaced at an equal interval.

52. (original) The driving device as set forth in claim 50, wherein the piezoelectric element is shaped as a ring arranged in the face of the lens adjacent to the periphery thereof.

53. (original) The driving device as set forth in claim 50, further comprising a lens frame for surrounding the periphery of the lens, wherein the first end of the piezoelectric element is fixed to the lens frame.

54. (original) The driving device as set forth in claim 50, wherein the lens has at least one segment projected radially from the periphery of the lens, and wherein the external frame has a recess formed along a route of the lens for receiving the projected segment.

55. (original) The driving device as set forth in claim 54, wherein the piezoelectric element is fixed with a portion of the projected segment.

56. (original) The driving device as set forth in claim 50, absolute values of the supply voltage per time fed to the piezoelectric element are different from each other before and after a peak.

57. **(currently amended)** A method of transporting a lens ~~with the~~ using a driving device comprising a guide element connected perpendicularly with the lens for guiding reciprocating movement of the lens, and a driving element having a first end fixed perpendicularly to a face of the lens to provide the lens with a transport force which is larger than an interactive force between the lens and the guide element, ~~according to claim 17~~, the method comprising the ~~following~~ steps of:

(a) moving [[the]] a second end of the driving element [[means]] along a transport

direction of the lens at a first velocity; and

(b) restoring the driving element [[means]] to [[its]] an original configuration thereof at a second velocity faster than the first velocity ~~of the second end of the driving means in the step (a)~~ to move the lens which is fixed with the first end of the driving element [[means]].

58. **(currently amended)** The method ~~of transporting a lens~~ as set forth in claim 57, wherein the driving element [[means]] comprises a piezoelectric element powered by a supply voltage, and wherein the supply voltage per time fed to the piezoelectric element in the step (a) has an absolute value smaller than that of the supply voltage in the step (b).

59. **(currently amended)** A method of transporting a lens ~~with the~~ using a driving device comprising a guide element connected perpendicularly with the lens for guiding reciprocating movement of the lens, and a driving element having a first end fixed perpendicularly to a face of the lens to provide the lens with a transport force which is larger than an interactive force between the lens and the guide element, ~~according to claim 17~~, the method comprising the ~~following~~ steps of:

(a) moving [[the]] a second end of the driving element [[means]] along a transport direction of the lens at a first velocity; and

(b) operating the driving element [[means]] at a second velocity faster than the first velocity ~~of the second end of the driving means in the step (a)~~ to move the lens, which is fixed to the first end of the driving element [[means]], along the transport direction of the lens beyond a position of the lens that will be achieved by restoration of the driving element [[means]] to [[its]] an original ~~position~~ configuration thereof; and

(c) restoring the second end of the driving element [[means]] to [[its]] said original configuration.

60. **(currently amended)** The method ~~of transporting a lens~~ as set forth in claim 59,

wherein the driving element [[means]] comprises a piezoelectric element powered by a supply voltage, and wherein the supply voltage per time fed to the piezoelectric element in the step (a) has an absolute value smaller than that of the supply voltage in the step (b).